

AUG 16 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of) Before the Examiner
Bhupender S. Minhas) Krishnan S Menon
)
U. S. Serial No.: 10/773,789) Confirmation Number: 7911
)
Filed: February 6, 2004) Group Art Unit: 1723
)
For: PROCESS FOR THE RECOVERY OF) Family Number: PEP-0404
SULFURIC ACID USING POLYMERIC) (P2003J011-US2)
MEMBRANES)
)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

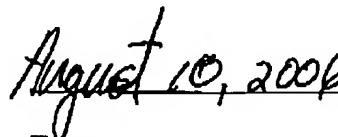
DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.132

1. I, Dennis G. Peiffer, am one of the named inventors of Application Serial No. 10/773,789.
2. I have a B.S. in Chemistry and a Ph.D. in Chemistry/Polymer Science and Engineering. I have worked in the field of polymer science and engineering for 34 years. I am currently a senior scientist at ExxonMobil Research and Engineering. I have worked for ExxonMobil for the past 28 years.
3. I have reviewed the Office Action mailed on April 11, 2006 that is pending for Application Serial No. 10/773,789. I have also reviewed U.S. Patents 4,767,645 and 4,833,014 (the Linder patents) that are referred to in the April 11, 2006 Office Action.
4. The Linder patents describe a process for making composite membranes. The membranes described in the Linder patents are suitable for separating organic compounds of low molecular weight from aqueous, inorganic salts. (See, for example, Col. 1, lines 48 – 68 of U.S. Patent 4,767,645; Col. 1, line 50 – Col. 2, line 2 of U.S. Patent 4,833,014.)
5. Based on my review of the Linder patents, the membranes described in the Linder patents are not compatible for use in an environment with a sulfuric acid

concentration of 70 wt% or higher. Based on the description in the Linder patents of how the membranes are formed, the membranes described in the Linder patents would lose their structural integrity in the presence of sulfuric acid at a concentration of 70 wt% or greater.

6. I hereby declare that the above statements regarding my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information or belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements are made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United State Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of any patent issued on the above-referenced application.


Dennis G. Peiffer


Date